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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 /161 W
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R 202015Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8138
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, CA
SUBJECT: PEARSON NAMED NEW DISARMAMENT ADVISER

1. EXTAFF ANNOUNCED JULY 18 APPOINTMENT OF GEOFFREY PEARSON AS DISARMAMENT ADVISER AND HEAD OF NEW EXTAFF OFFICE OF ADVISER ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL AFFAIRS. PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT QUOTE: THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE WILL ACT AS PRINCIPAL ADVISER TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY ON DISARMAMENT POLICY, INCLUDING NULCEAR PROLIFERATION, ARMS TRANSFERS, AND NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES. THE DECISION FOLLOWS AGREEMENT AT THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON A PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON DISARMAMENT...AS AN ADDITIONAL MEANS OF STRENGTHENING CANADA'S ROLE IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, THE DISARMAMENT ADVISER WILL EXPLORE WAYS OF ASSOCIATING CANADIANS WHO HAVE SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT WITH HIS OFFICE. - CONSULATATIVE
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GROUP MET TWICE WITH OFFICIAL S BEFORE THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AND SOME WERE APPOINTED TO ACT AS ADVISERS TO THE CANADIAN DELEGATION. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HOPES TO BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH AND TO STIMULATE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO DISARMAMENT. UNQUOTE.

2. PEARSON JOINED THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN

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1952. HE HAS SERVED ABROAD AS THIR SECRETARY (1953-55) AND SECOND SECRETARY (1955-57) AT THE EMBASSY IN PARIS; WITH THE NATO SECRETARIAT (1958-61); AS FIRST SECRETARY AT THE EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY (1961-64); AND AS COUNSELOR AT THE HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI (1969-72). DURING 1973-76 HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY ANALYSIS GROUP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. SINCE 1976, HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL, DUREAU OF UN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

EDUCATED IN BOTH CANADA AND ENGLAND, PEARSON HOLDS A B.A. DEGREE FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY. THE 50-YEAR-OLD DIPLOMAT IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER LANDON MACKENZIE AND THEY HAVE FIVE CHILDREN.

3. COMMENT: GEOFF PEARSON IS KNOWN WELL AND FAVORABLY BY A NUMBER OF EMBASSY AND DEPARRTMENT OFFICERS WITH WHOM HE HAS DEALT OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS AND WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN CANDID AND OPEN. SINCE HE IS BRIGHT AND DOES HIS HOMEWORK, DEALING WITH HIM CAN BE A PLEASURE. HE IS BASICLY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, BUT HE WILL VIGOROUSLY DEFEND THE CANADIAN VIEWPOINT WHEREVER IT DIVERGES FROM THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. PEARSON HAS AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF HUMOR, FREQUENTLY DISGUISED WITH A DEA-PAN EXPRESSION.

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4. EXTAFF SOURCES TELL US THAT NEW POSITION IS A PROMOTION FOR PEARSON IN TERMS OF EXTAFF HIERARCHY SINCE IT WILL BE AT ASST. UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL IN FACT IF NOT IN NAME. PURPOSE APPARENTLY IS TO UPGRADE DISARMAMENT FUNCTION IN EXTAFF THROUGH CREATION OF NEW OFFICE (IT WAS FORMERLY A SUBDIVISION IN BUREAU OF DEFENCE AND ARMS CONTROL) HEADED BY A RESPECTED OFFICER WITH A WELL-KNOWN NAME. ONE SOURCE INDICATED THAT PRIVATE ADVISERS TO CANADIAN DEL TO SSOD WERE UNHAPPY WITH PERCEIVED STEPCHILD NATURE OF DIS-ARMAMENT IN EXTAFF AND NEW OFFICE IS A RESPONSE TO THIS. FURTHER, PM TRUDEAU'S MAJOR ADDRESS TO SSOD SIGNALED SPECIAL GOC ATTENTION TO DISARMAMENT TOPIC WITH NEW, UP-GRADED OFFICE A LOGICAL FOLLOW-UP. ENDERS

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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